



## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, ubiquitous access to reliable broadband internet service is essential for our nation's economy to grow and compete in the information economy; and

WHEREAS, for many Americans, reliable, quality broadband Internet access is either too costly or simply unavailable, which lack of access has contributed to a digital divide that separates Americans in their access to information and, consequently, in their ability to give fair opportunities to their children and participate in the information economy and in civic affairs; and

WHEREAS, the United States continues to fall further behind other countries with regard to the availability of broadband Internet access; and

WHEREAS, protecting children from exposure to indecent material on the Internet continues to be a serious challenge with which parents and educators need help; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for reliable communication among first responders, command centers, and municipal officials everyday and in response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing demand among Americans for broadband access that is available where they need it, not just at home or at work; and

WHEREAS, a nationwide, free, wireless broadband network that is made safe for children, by employing network-level filtering of indecent material, would benefit the American public in many ways, by:

- Helping to bridge the digital divide and give more Americans the opportunity to participate in the information economy and in civic affairs, and to afford their children access to learning resources outside the classroom, or when library access may be infeasible
- Helping American businesses, and, in particular, small businesses and entrepreneurs, compete in the United States and around the world by increasing access to information, encouraging innovation, expanding marketing opportunities, and improving prospects for growth
- Protecting children from indecent material on the Internet, while allowing for increased freedom to use the Internet as an educational tool in school, at home, and in home schools
- Improving the ability of first responders, command centers, and municipal officials to respond to emergencies, thereby enhancing public safety

- Providing access where Americans need and want it, to download maps and to stay in touch by email, even when they are not at home or at their desks; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Raymond, Mississippi would benefit from such a wireless broadband network.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Raymond Board of Aldermen support efforts to provide free, nationwide, wireless broadband access that will help bridge the digital divide that separates many Americans, help all Americans compete for jobs in the information economy, ensure a safe environment and prosperous future for our children, and make us global leaders in providing our citizenry access to the Internet and all its benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Raymond Board of Aldermen urge the elected representatives of its citizens in Washington, the United States government and the Federal Communications Commission to support a public-private partnership approach and consider all alternatives to delivering free, nationwide, wireless broadband access to its citizens.

Dated this 5th day of Dec., 2006.



Isla Tullos, Mayor  
City of Raymond  
Mississippi